

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 9 are independent. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that “said third voltage is substantially at the same level throughout successive non-select states.” Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the amendment can be found in, for example, Figs. 5 and 6 exemplarily showing gate line driver 120 in which the drive voltages of gate line GL# are only voltage VGH and VGM (or VCOM), and page 14, line 11 to page 15, line 13 of the specification describing the voltage setting of gate line GL# in a non-select period. Specifically, because of expression (14) describing intermediate voltage VGM and the specification on page 15, lines 9-13 describing that the stress to the gate insulation film that is continuously applied in a non-scanning period is evaluated based on expression (16). Therefore, it is apparent that the gate voltage (gate line voltage) is continuously the same throughout successive non-scanning periods, i.e., non-select states.

Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada et al.¹

In April 24, 2006 response, Applicant argued that Shimada et al. in Fig. 7 discloses that the voltage applied to the gate of TFT 103b in “OFF-PERIOD” is different between “FIRST FIELD” and “SECOND FIELD,” and thus, is not at a constant level, as claimed. The Examiner responded that claims 1 and 9 simply require a substantially constant third voltage to be applied to a second gate line during a non-select state. This requirement is purportedly met if a voltage

¹ Claims 10 and 11 were canceled by the April 24, 2006 Amendment.

applied to the gate of TFT 103b is at a constant level in each of “FIRST FIELD” and “SECOND FIELD,” as disclosed in Shimada et al.

In response, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to require that the “third voltage” be substantially at the same level throughout successive non-select states.” Applicant submits that Shimada et al. does not disclose, at a minimum, the above requirement, because Shimada et al. discloses applying different voltages to the gate of TFT 103b between “FIRST FIELD” and “SECOND FIELD,” as shown in Fig. 7.

Accordingly, Shimada et al. does not disclose a liquid crystal display apparatus including all the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 9, as amended. Dependent claims 5-7 are also patentably distinguishable over Shimada et al. at least because the claims include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5-7 and 9, and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 2-4 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. in view of Morozumi et al.; claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. in view of Koden et al.; claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. in view of Yumoto; and claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. in view of Kondo et al.

Applicant submits that claims 2-4 and 8 are patentably distinguishable over Morozumi et al., Koden et al., Yumoto and Kondo et al. at least because these claims include all the limitations recited in claim 1. It is noted that Morozumi et al., Koden et al., Yumoto and Kondo

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et al. do not teach that "said third voltage is substantially at the same level throughout successive non-select states," recited in claim 1, and thus, do not cure the deficiency of Shimada et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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